

In re Appln. of Specht et al.
Application No. 09/514,711

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of patentable subject matter. In response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003, applicants have amended the specification as suggested in the Office Action and canceled, without prejudice, claims 2, 7, 8, 13, 17, 21-23, and 25-44, amended claims 1 and 24, and added new claims 45 and 46. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Without acquiescing in any way to the substantive rejections made in the Office Action and merely to expedite the prosecution of the subject matter that the Office Action indicated is allowable, applicants have canceled, without prejudice, claims 2, 7, 8, 13, 17, 21-23, and 25-44, amended claims 1 and 24, and added new claims 45 and 46. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue all canceled claims in a continuation application. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the contents of claim 2 therein and is thus patentable as indicated in the Office Action. Claim 24 has been rewritten via a non-narrowing amendment to traverse the indefiniteness rejections and is thus allowable according to Paragraph 10 of the Office Action. It is noted that Paragraph 8 of the Office Action is incomplete as it does not include a citation to a reference and has been considered to be superceded by Paragraph 10 in any event. New claim 45 is claim 7 rewritten in independent form. New claim 46 is claim 8 rewritten in independent form.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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